

PDC

CRIME

10¢

DOES NOT PAY

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JULY NO. 34

**ALL TRUE
CRIME
STORIES!**



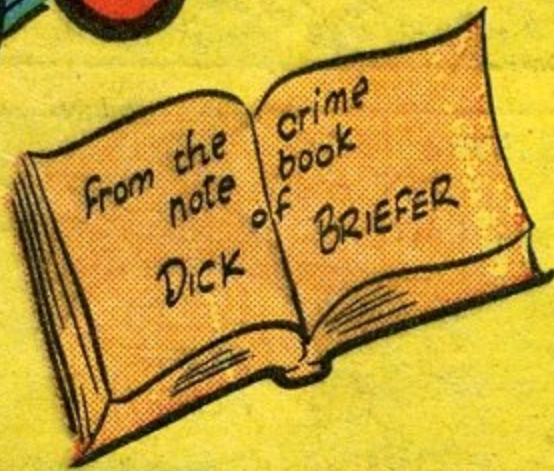
IN THIS ISSUE -
MURDER AT MIDNIGHT
WOLF IN MAN'S CLOTHING
FOUR STEPS TO DOOM
AND MANY OTHERS

BIRO



WEB COMIC UNIVERSE.COM

Who? Dummitt



HERE IS YOUR EQUIPMENT..

(SUPPLY YOUR OWN BRAIN.)

OUR REGULAR FEATURE WHEREIN YOU ARE TO BE HAWKSHAW AND SOLVE THE WHY AND WHEREFOR OF THE CRIME (THAT DOES NOT PAY) COMMITTED HEREIN.

NEW HOLLYWOOD, THERE IS A COZY LITTLE HOME..

.. OWNED BY ACTOR RODNEY STARK..

.. WHO IS ADORED BY CLAIRE ALWYN.



BUT RODNEY IS ALSO ADORED BY RUTH KING .. WHICH COMPLICATES THINGS.

BRUCE BLOTZ ADORES RUTH KING.

BILL ALWYN IS CLAIRE'S BIG BROTHER, LOVING AND PROTECTING.



Clark SHAW IS AN AMATEUR DETECTIVE..



.. AND JEEVES IS RODNEY'S NEW BUTLER.

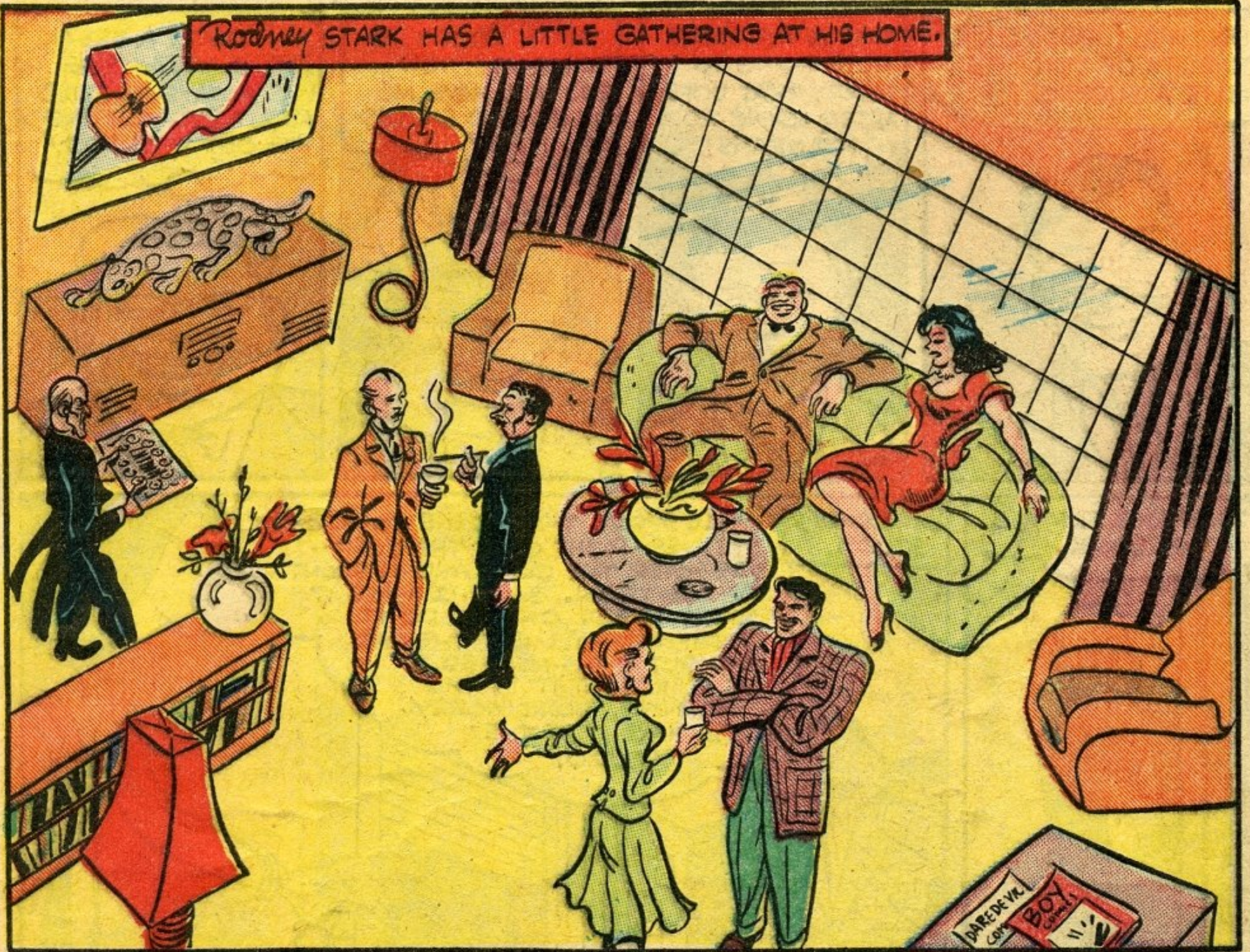


This IS MAURICE K. MUSNICK, WHO HAS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO WITH THE STORY.



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RODNEY STARK HAS A LITTLE GATHERING AT HIS HOME.



DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE PLAYING WITH FIRE WHEN YOU INVITE CLAIRE AND RUTH AT THE SAME TIME, ROD?

PLAYING WITH FIRE IS MY BUSINESS, CLARK.



DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH! YOUR PUBLIC THINKS YOU'RE THE GREAT DAREDEVIL THE SCREEN BUILDS YOU UP TO BE, BUT I KNOW A DUMMY TAKES ALL THOSE FALLS AND PLUNGES!

QUIET, CLARK, OLD DETECTIVE. YOU CAN'T LET MY FANS DOWN.. HA HA HA! I CAN'T BE CAUGHT WITH MY FANS DOWN! HAHA! GET IT??



YOU FOLKS WONDER WHAT THIS SPECIAL OCCASION IS FOR. WELL, SO DO I, BUT I CALL UPON BRUCE BLOTZ TO CLEAR UP THE MYSTERY.



THANK YOU. THANK YOU. TO-NIGHT I WISH TO ANNOUNCE THAT RUTH KING AND I WILL BE MARRIED!

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WELL, WELL! GOOD LUCK TO BOTH OF YOU! IT'S QUITE A SURPRISE!



THIS IS A SHOCK! RUTH GOING TO MARRY THAT DOPE AFTER LOVING ROD FOR YEARS!



THANK GOODNESS FOR THAT! NOW ROD WILL HAVE ME ON HIS MIND EXCLUSIVELY!



AH! THAT'S A BREAK FOR CLAIRE! SHE WAS ALWAYS WORRIED ABOUT RUTH CUTTING HER OUT WITH ROD!



TELEPHONE FOR YOU, MR. STARK.



IN RODNEY'S STUDY..



WE'LL SHOOT THAT SCENE TO-MORROW, YES..YES.. RIGHT OVER THE CLIFF.. YES..OVER THE CLIFF AND IN FRONT OF THE TRAIN, SURE..I HAVE IT RIGHT HERE. OK..I'LL DO IT RIGHT NOW..I'LL GET THE CAR AND PUT IT IN..NOW..SO I WON'T FORGET IT IN THE MORNING, DON'T WORRY.. I'LL HAVE IT AT THE STUDIO.



RUTH.. I GUESS YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING. THIS DEFINITELY FINISHES OUR ROMANCE. GOOD LUCK.



GOOD LUCK.. IS THAT ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY? IS THAT HOW YOU REACT TO LOSING MY LOVE?

I'M NOT GOING TO MARRY THAT POOR SAP BRUCE.. I JUST WANTED TO SEE WHAT YOU'D SAY IF YOU KNEW WE WERE FINISHED.. AND YOU SAID IT--"GOOD LUCK"! WHAT HAS THAT LITTLE TWERP CLAIRE GOT THAT I HAVEN'T GOT MORE OF?



RUTH!

I'M NOT GOING TO MARRY BRUCE BLOTZ.. I'LL NEVER MARRY ANYBODY.. BUT YOU.. BECAUSE..



RUTH.. CUT IT OUT! I LOVE CLAIRE!



ROD! OH ROD! KISS ME, ROD!

GULP

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OF ALL THE COLOSSAL NERVE! HERE RUTH IS PRACTICALLY MARRIED TO ME AND YOU--YOU--YOU--!

HE'LL PAY FOR THIS! I'LL--

QUITE A TOUCHING SCENE, RODNEY. I SUPPOSE YOU TWO CAN'T BEAR TO PART!

RUTH WILL NEVER KISS ROD AGAIN!

LOOK HERE, ROD YOU CAD! YOU CAN'T DO A THING LIKE THAT--TO BRUCE--TO CLAIRE--

THE SWINE--BREAKING MY SISTER'S HEART-- WHY, I'LL BREAK HIS--

I SENSE A DISASTER IN THIS FOUL AIR!

BUT--BUT--IT'S ALL A-- PLEASE LEAVE ME ALONE. GO INTO THE PARLOR AND ENJOY YOURSELVES. LET ME ALONE FOR A WHILE.

WHAT A SPOT I'M IN! BUT I MUST ATTEND TO THAT PHONE CALL BEFORE I FORGET. THEN I'LL TRY TO CLEAR UP THIS MESS.

IN THE PARLOR--

EXCUSE ME WHILE I GO OUT AND FIX MY MASCARA.

I'M GOING ON THE PORCH AND BROOD.

I GOTTA GO SOMEWHERE.

I'M GOING INTO THE MUSIC ROOM AND LISTEN TO TCHAIKOVSKY'S PATHETIQUE SYMPHONY, LAST MOVEMENT.

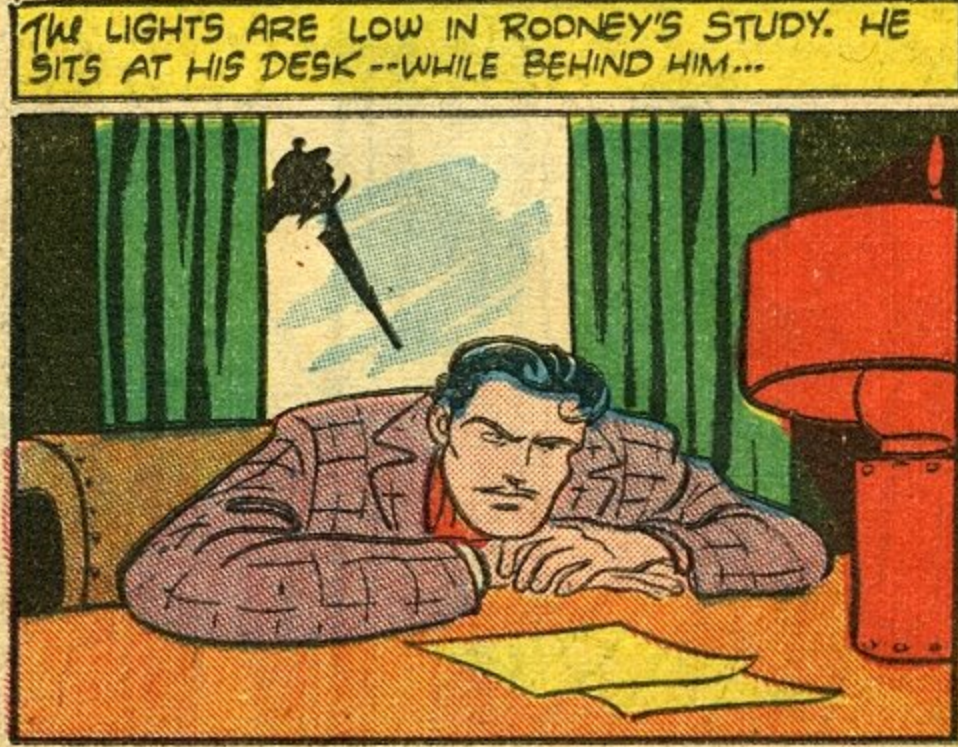
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I'LL STAY HERE AND DRINK.

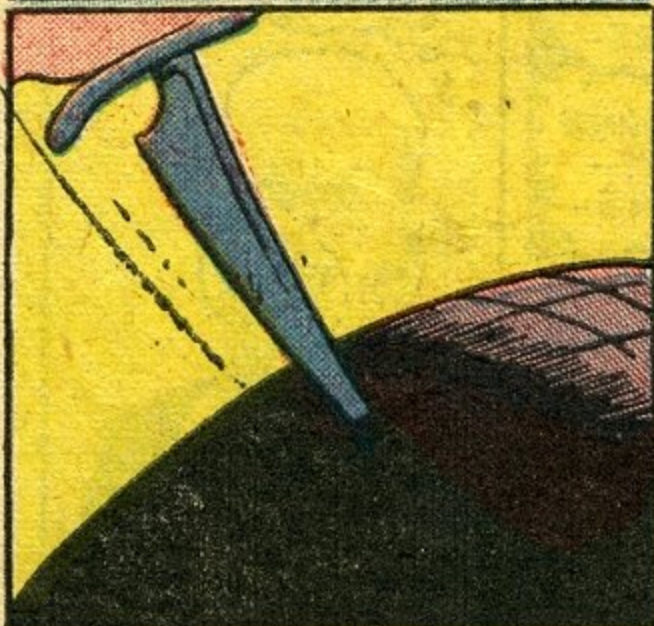


HMMM.



THE LIGHTS ARE LOW IN RODNEY'S STUDY. HE SITS AT HIS DESK --WHILE BEHIND HIM...

Eight TIMES THE KNIFE IS PLUNGED INTO HIS BACK..



THE FIGURE SILENTLY STEALS OUT, LEAVING---



WE'RE ALL TO-GETHER AGAIN, LET'S DRINK TO SOMETHING-- TO THE FUTURE-- TO VICTORY!

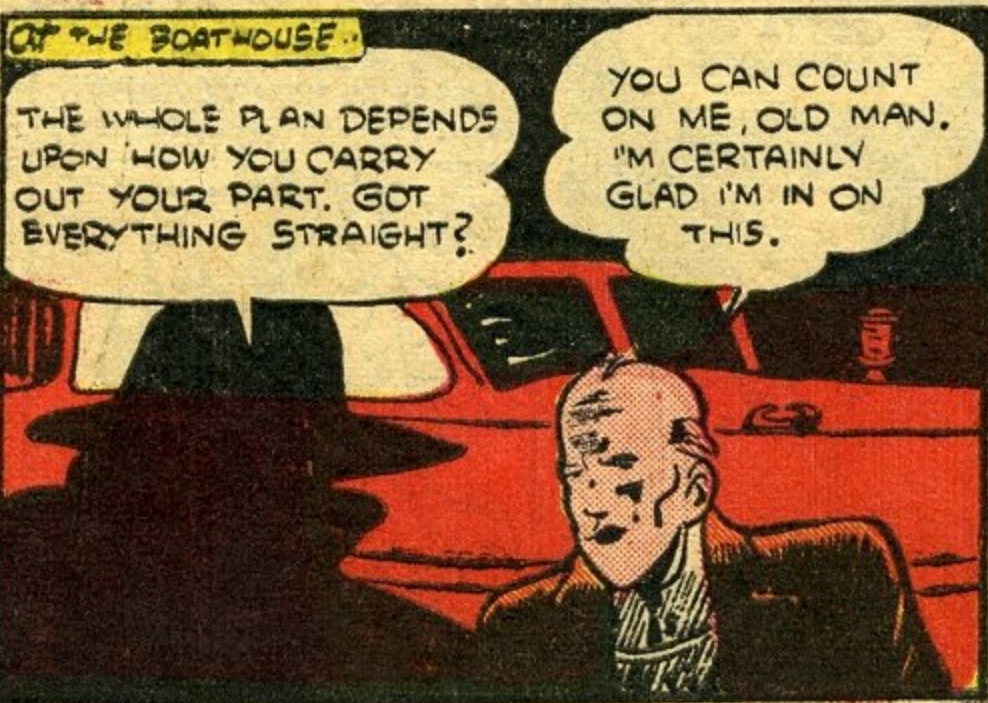


TELEPHONE FOR MR. SHAW. THIS WAY-- IT'S THE HALL PHONE.



HELLO, MR. SHAW? I WANT YOU TO EXCUSE YOURSELF AND MEET ME IMMEDIATELY AT THE BOATHOUSE!

HELLO-- WHY, WHO IS THIS?



AT THE BOATHOUSE..

THE WHOLE PLAN DEPENDS UPON HOW YOU CARRY OUT YOUR PART. GOT EVERYTHING STRAIGHT?

YOU CAN COUNT ON ME, OLD MAN. I'M CERTAINLY GLAD I'M IN ON THIS.



Back AT THE HOUSE

..AND I KISSED HIM IN SPITE OF HIS PROTESTS. SO YOU SEE, I'M CONFESSING --HE WASN'T TO BLAME. AFTER ALL, IT WAS ONLY A FAREWELL KISS.

LET'S ALL GO AND APOLOGIZE TO ROD FOR OUR HASTY REMARKS.

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And THEN--THE DISCOVERY!!!

ROD!
MY
GOSH!!

HE'S--

LOOK! THE
KNIFE!!



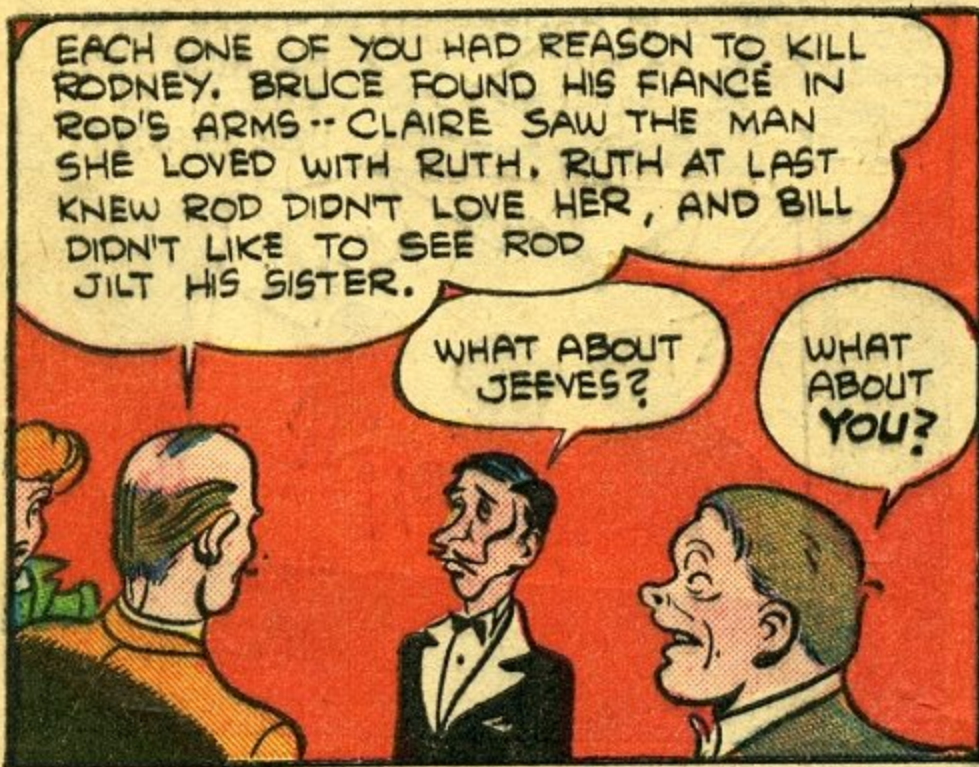
HE'S DEAD!!
ICE COLD!
STABBED EIGHT
TIMES!!

NOBODY LEAVES
THIS ROOM!

**Who
Dunnit?**

Right NOW WE COULD ASK THIS QUESTION AND FINISH THE STORY. IF YOU HAVE KEEN OBSERVATION--VERY KEEN--YOU WOULD SEE ONE CLUE THAT WOULD TELL YOU WHO KILLED RODNEY STARK.

BUT.. THIS IS NOT THE END OF THE STORY! IF YOU KNOW THE KILLER, CONGRATULATIONS! BUT HOLD ON TO YOUR COMIC BOOK AND SEE THE WEIRD, STARTLING, SMASHING FINISH OF THIS TALE!!



EACH ONE OF YOU HAD REASON TO KILL RODNEY. BRUCE FOUND HIS FIANCEE IN ROD'S ARMS--CLAIRE SAW THE MAN SHE LOVED WITH RUTH. RUTH AT LAST KNEW ROD DIDN'T LOVE HER, AND BILL DIDN'T LIKE TO SEE ROD JILT HIS SISTER.

WHAT ABOUT
JEEVES?

WHAT
ABOUT
YOU?



I WANT TO CONDUCT A SEANCE. I BELIEVE WE CAN CONTACT ROD'S SPIRIT AND FIND OUT WHO MURDERED HIM.

HOW
UTTERLY
STUPID!

CAN'T WE
COVER UP
THE BODY?
IT'S
GRUESOME!



THE BODY MUST STAY RIGHT HERE. NOW EVERYBODY SIT AROUND THE CORPSE IN A CIRCLE, HOLDING HANDS. CONCENTRATE ON RODNEY...

CONCENTRATE..

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And THEN..



I ..HAVE COME BACK.. AND.. FIND IT HARD.. TO SPEAK.. I SEE ..OLD FRIENDS.. BUT AMONGST..THEM..IS..THE ONE.. WHO.. KILLED ME !!

YAAAA!! ROD! FORGIVE ME!!



I DID KILL YOU, ROD! BUT FORGIVE ME!!

..AND HURTTLES DOWN.. DOWN THE CLIFF...



IN THE DARK ROOM, A FIGURE CRASHES THROUGH THE WINDOW...

..TO DEATH ON THE SEA-BEATEN ROCKS!!



GOOD GRIEF! IT WAS RUTH!

SHE CONFESSED TO THE MURDER!

THERE WAS NO MURDER... EXCEPT IN HER HEART!!

The EXPLANATION of it all.

RUTH SNEAKED INTO ROD'S STUDY, STABBED HIM IN THE BACK. THE CLUE THAT SHE LEFT WAS THREE PEARLS FROM HER BROKEN NECKLACE. BUT WHAT SHE REALLY STABBED WAS A DUMMY THAT ROD USED IN HIS FAKE DAREDEVIL SCENES. ROD TOOK IT OUT OF THE CLOSET, SAT IT IN THE CHAIR, AND WENT TO THE GARAGE. WHEN HE RETURNED, HE FOUND THE KNIFE IN THE DUMMY, SUSPECTED IT WAS MEANT FOR HIM. HE WENT TO THE BOATHOUSE, CALLED FOR SHAW, TOLD HIM TO CONDUCT THE SEANCE. ROD WALKED IN ON THE GROUP, APPEARING AS HIS GHOST, SAID HE KNEW HIS "MURDERER." HYSTERICAL, RUTH DASHED HERSELF THROUGH THE WINDOW TO HER DEATH. THUS WE CLOSE THE STORY OF THE MURDER THAT WAS NOT A MURDER!